THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATIJAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Principal Secretary, Energy & Petrochemical Department of the Government of Gujarat, vide his letter dated February 5, 2001, had requested for restoration of the power supply in the earthquake effected areas in Kutch District and requested that funds for rebuilding the sub-transmission and distribution network in the Kutch District may be provided under Accelerated Power development Programme (APDP) under special dispensation.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 96.00 crores as financial assistance under APDP, for Bhuj in Kutch District, with 50% grant and 50% loan. The Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) now known as the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) was introduced in February 2000 with the focused objective of initiating a financial turnaround in the performance of the State owned power utilities. The scheme does not cover natural calamities. As of now, APDRP does not provide for areas affected by natural calamities under special category. This has wider ramifications and would require consultation/concurrence of the concerned Ministries/Department of the Government of India.

Local problems hindering power projects in NE

† 139. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that various power projects of the North-East have been held in abeyance due to local problems :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to provide power generated by new projects for the use of local people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATIJAYAWANTIMEHTA) : (a) and (b) Dhansiri Hydro Electric Project (20 MW) being executed by Assam Electricity Board in Assam and Loktak Downstream Hydroelectric Project (90 MW) being executed by the National hydro-electric power Corporation in Manipur are being held up due to law and order problems and adverse security environment. In addition, Tipaimukh Hydro Electric Project (1500 MW) in Manipur on which detailed investigation and pre-construction activities are proposed to be taken up by the North East Electric Power Corporation is facing opposition from a section of the local people apart from the adverse security environment in the area.

(c) and (d) Power to be generated by all new projects in the North Eastern Region will first meet the requirement of the region and only surplus power will be exported outside the region.

Public issue by NTPC to raise resources

140. SHRIYADLAPATIVENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation is plannig to enter the capital narket with a public issue to raise resources for meeting its target capacity;

(b) if so, the size of public issue;

(c) by when it is likely to open for public subscription; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has decided to explore the possibility of entering capital market with a public issue of equity.